

# Sustainability @Commerzbank

Corporate responsibility newsletter

February 2015 | Edition 2

## Sustainable procurement standard approved

For Commerzbank, corporate responsibility extends along the entire value chain. Consequently, sustainability also plays a major role in the procurement of goods and services. With the approval in December 2014 of the "Sustainable procurement standard", Commerzbank has defined mandatory sustainability guidelines for its procurement activities. In this standard, the Bank documents its expectations for business partners and how it will implement them.

As a result, Commerzbank will focus on integrity, the environment and social responsibility when entering into contractual relationships with its business partners. The objective is to ensure that the business partners themselves meet the requirements and criteria and also pass them on to their own suppliers and service providers.

Compliance with social standards will be addressed in annual supplier meetings. These standards are based on internationally accepted human rights standards, which include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Labour Standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

In addition to the social standards, we and our business partners will be even more firmly committed to German ecological standards in the future. As participant in the United Nations Global Compact, we expect all service providers and suppliers to meet environmental protection regulations and standards and strive to improve their environmental protection efforts on a continual basis. Service providers and suppliers of Commerzbank in turn make a commitment to demand and

promote compliance with environmental standards throughout their own supply chains.

In the procurement of electrical equipment, the life cycle costs, including disposal costs, will play a greater role in the future. When performance and costs are the same, sustainable products must generally be given preference.

The implementation of the regulations passed with the sustainable procurement standard will be assessed annually within the framework of the supplier management process. In case of non-compliance, an escalation process is in place that can lead to termination of the business relationship.

### Further information on this article:

- [Document: Sustainable procurement standard \(only in German language\)](#)
- [ILO International Labour Standards](#)
- [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)
- [United Nations Global Compact](#)
- [Sustainability portal: Sustainable procurement](#)

### Imprint

**Publisher:** Commerzbank AG, Corporate Responsibility, Rüdiger Senft (V.i.S.d.P)

**Editor:** Christoph Ott, Thekla Wiessner

**Feedback:** [nachhaltigkeit@commerzbank.com](mailto:nachhaltigkeit@commerzbank.com)

**Publication:** quarterly

You can subscribe to or unsubscribe from the newsletter via the above-mentioned e-mail address or on the Commerzbank Sustainability Portal.

**Our website:** [www.nachhaltigkeit.commerzbank.com](http://www.nachhaltigkeit.commerzbank.com)

## In a nutshell: Sustainability initiatives at Commerzbank

### Commerzbank Prague joins Coalition for Transparent Business

Since 2014 Commerzbank Prague has been a member of the Coalition for Transparent Business. Formed in 2011 as an open association of Czech and international companies, this body works to cultivate the business environment in the Czech Republic. It brings together companies from diverse sectors and by the end of 2014 had 41 members, including Bayer, Deloitte, Ernst & Young, Mercedes-Benz, Siemens and SKODA AUTO.



### Commerzbank makes Christmas wishes come true



Kids from four children's homes in Frankfurt were thrilled when Santa Claus came calling in December 2014. Within just a few days, enough generous Commerzbank employees had come forward to intercept all of the children's letters to the North Pole and round up the items on their wish lists. As in 2013, gifts

again went to the children's homes in Rödelheim and Reinhardshof. In addition, this time Christmas cheer was spread to the children from war zones and other crisis areas accommodated in the Valentin-Senger-Haus and the Johanna Kirchner-Zentrum in Frankfurt. These facilities accommodate girls and boys aged 8–17 from such troubled countries as Somalia and Afghanistan.



### 5,000 checks for potential ecological, social and ethical concerns

In the 2014 business year, Reputational Risk Management examined approximately 5,000 transactions, products and client relationships (2013: 2,800) in which sustainability aspects played an important role. The substantial increase in the number of requests is due to the inclusion of new areas of concern as well as a broader scope for existing ones. Requests that were incompatible with our corporate responsibility principles received negative ratings due to social, ecological or ethical concerns. This occurred in connection with such areas as palm oil, mining, timber and textiles.



### Direct approval for KfW development loans

Effective immediately, Commerzbank clients will be informed during the meeting with the advisor on whether they can count on special KfW funding for their property financing. They will also be able to reserve binding terms with KfW. This will benefit clients by giving them the certainty they need for their planning at an early stage and providing them with easy access to development financing, as Commerzbank can obtain the funding commitment from KfW with a single click. This automated online process will significantly shorten the route to subsidised KfW funding for our clients.



### Commerzbank staff now drinking Fair Trade coffee



Since the beginning of 2015, all Commerzbank canteen operations and the vending machines in our buildings have offered only Fair Trade coffee – at no additional charge to the staff. The

switch has taken place both at locations where Commerzbank purchases the coffee and where service providers and suppliers are responsible.

### Road to Paris 2015

Commerzbank is supporting the CDP initiatives on the road to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in 2015. The objective of the conference is to reach agreement on a successor treaty to the Kyoto Protocol with binding climate targets for all 194 signatory states to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Aims of the CDP initiative include the increased use of renewable energy sources, keeping the rise in average global temperatures below 2°C, and stronger climate change commitments on the part of companies.



### Outlook for 2015

Commerzbank will continue to expand its sustainability efforts in 2015. We will focus in particular on the revision of our corporate responsibility strategy and on anchoring sustainability more firmly within the Bank's core business. Further details will be available in the next Sustainability Report, due for release in the autumn of 2015.